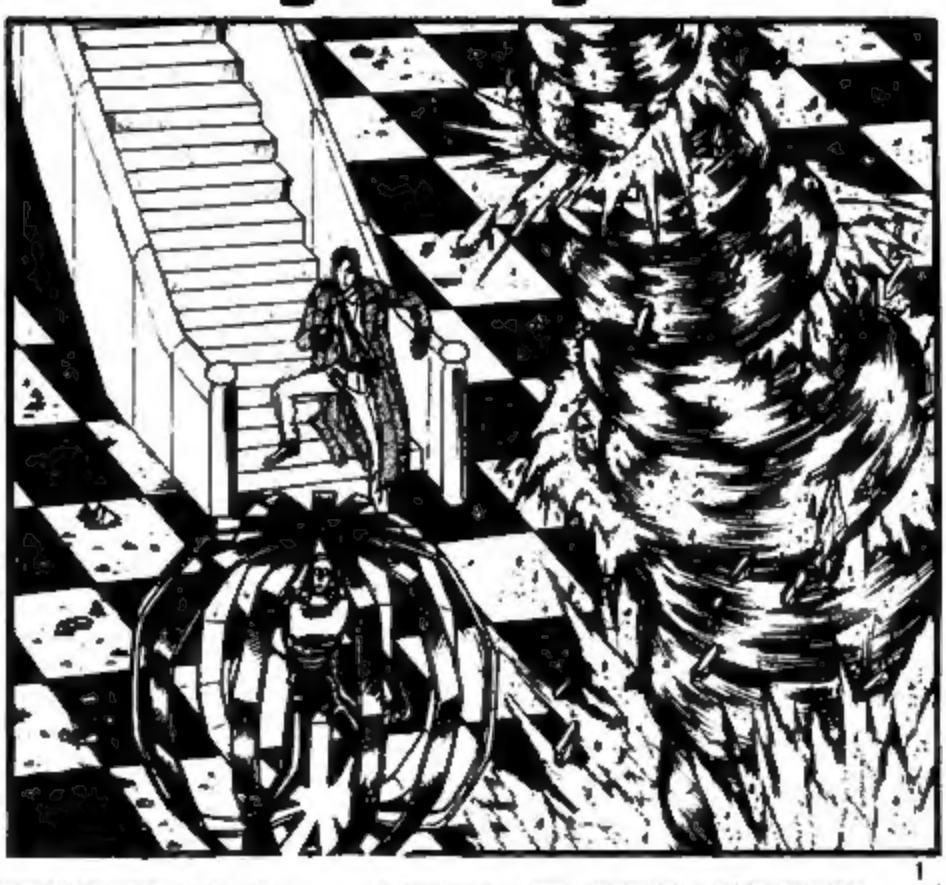
Act 44 Approaching Midnight



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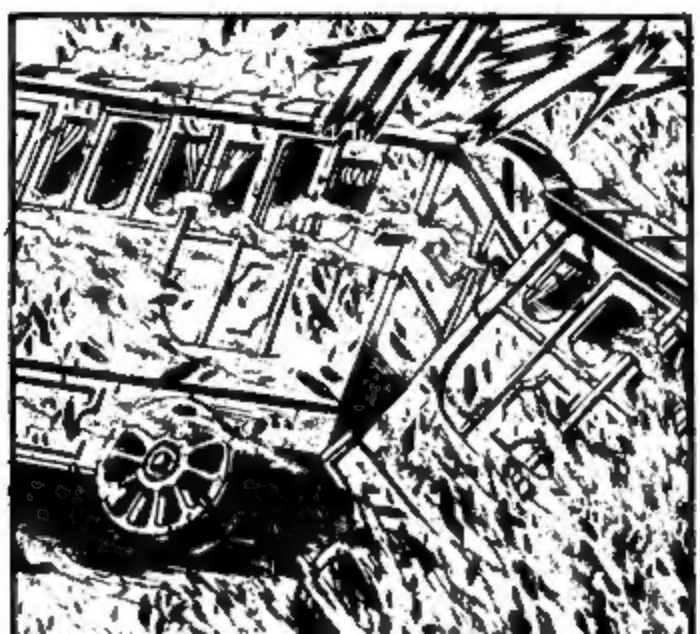

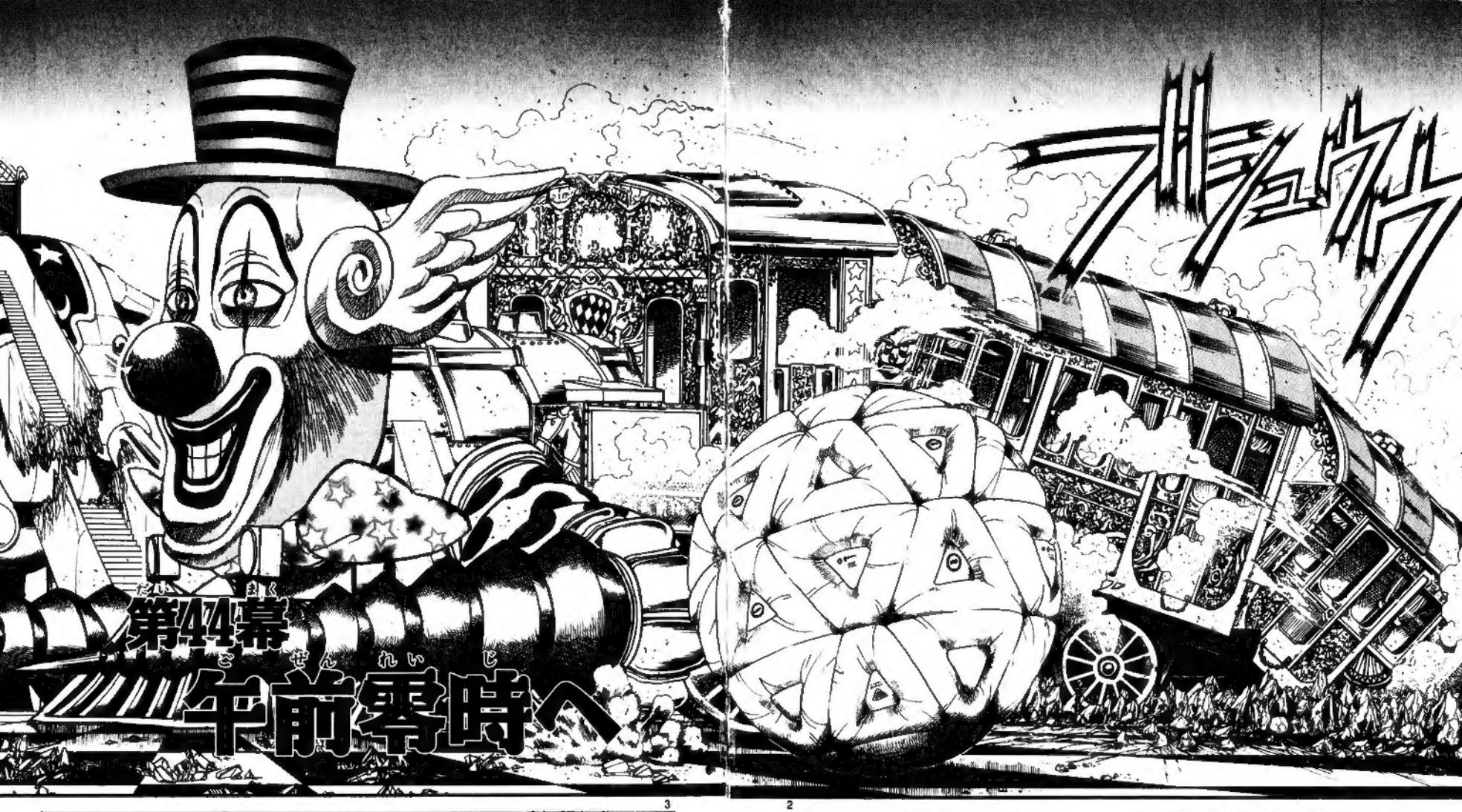
ガタン
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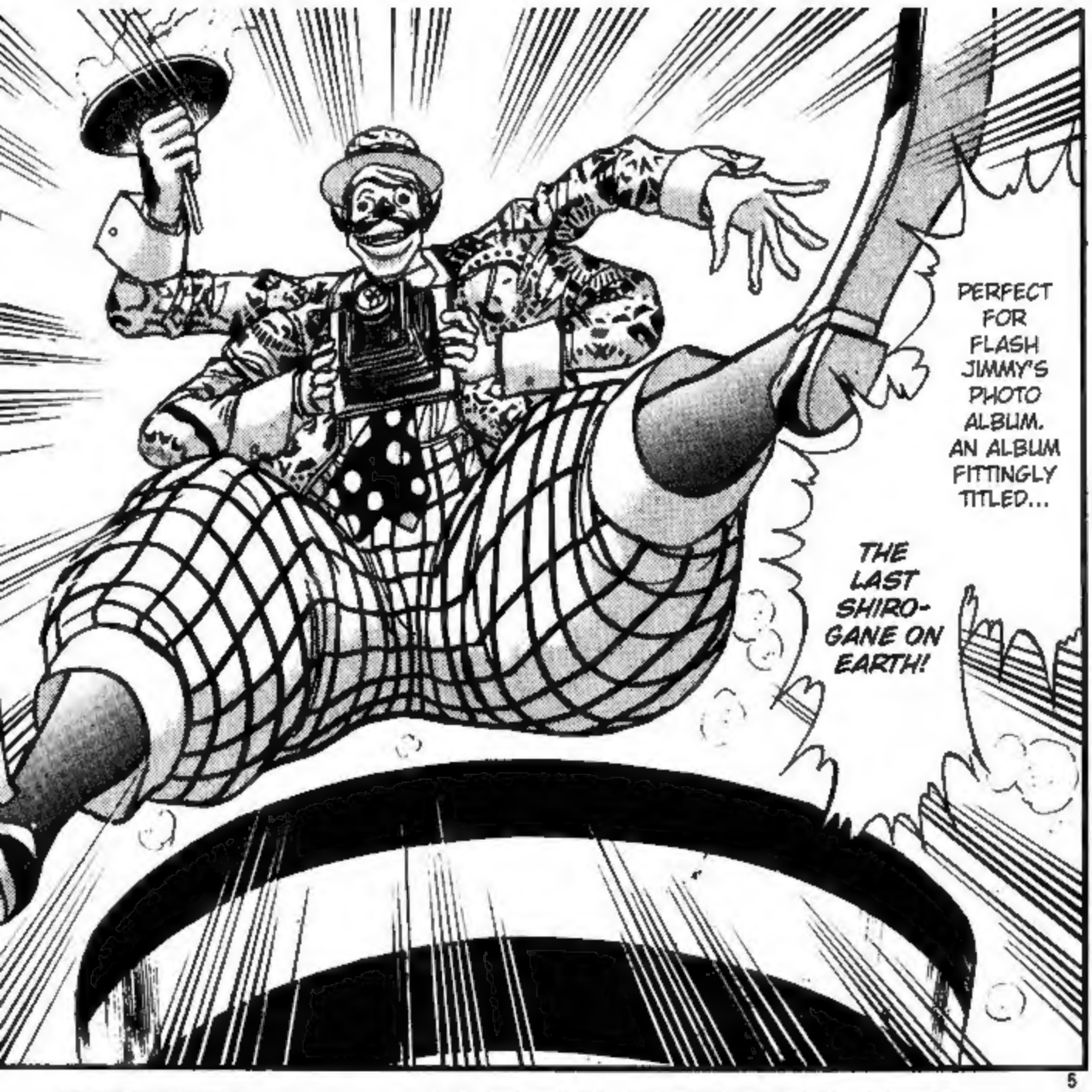
第44幕
午前零時へ

A HUGE... TRAIN? THIS HAS GOTTA BE A JOKE.
SO THE AUTOMATA WERE PLANNING TO ESCAPE IN THIS ALL ALONG...

IT'S 11:12 RIGHT NOW.
THE HUMANS' MISSILE ATTACK WILL BEGIN AT 12:00.
THEY'VE BEEN PLANNING TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE GROUND BEFORE THAT HAPPENS!

SFX: BSH BSH BSH


PERFECT FOR FLASH JIMMY'S PHOTO ALBUM. AN ALBUM FITTINGLY TITLED...
THE LAST SHIRO-GANE ON EARTH!

5

AND AFTER THAT, WHO WILL BE SEEING TO THE MOST HONORED OF OUR PASSEN-GERS?

WE SHALL OF COURSE BE ESCORTING LADY FRAN-CINE OUR-SELVES.

WOULD YOU NOT AGREE THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO BEGIN BOARDING THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN?
MY MOST HUMBLE APOLOGIES FOR THE DELAY, SIRS. AS THE HOUR OF OUR DEPARTURE IS DRAWING NEAR...

6

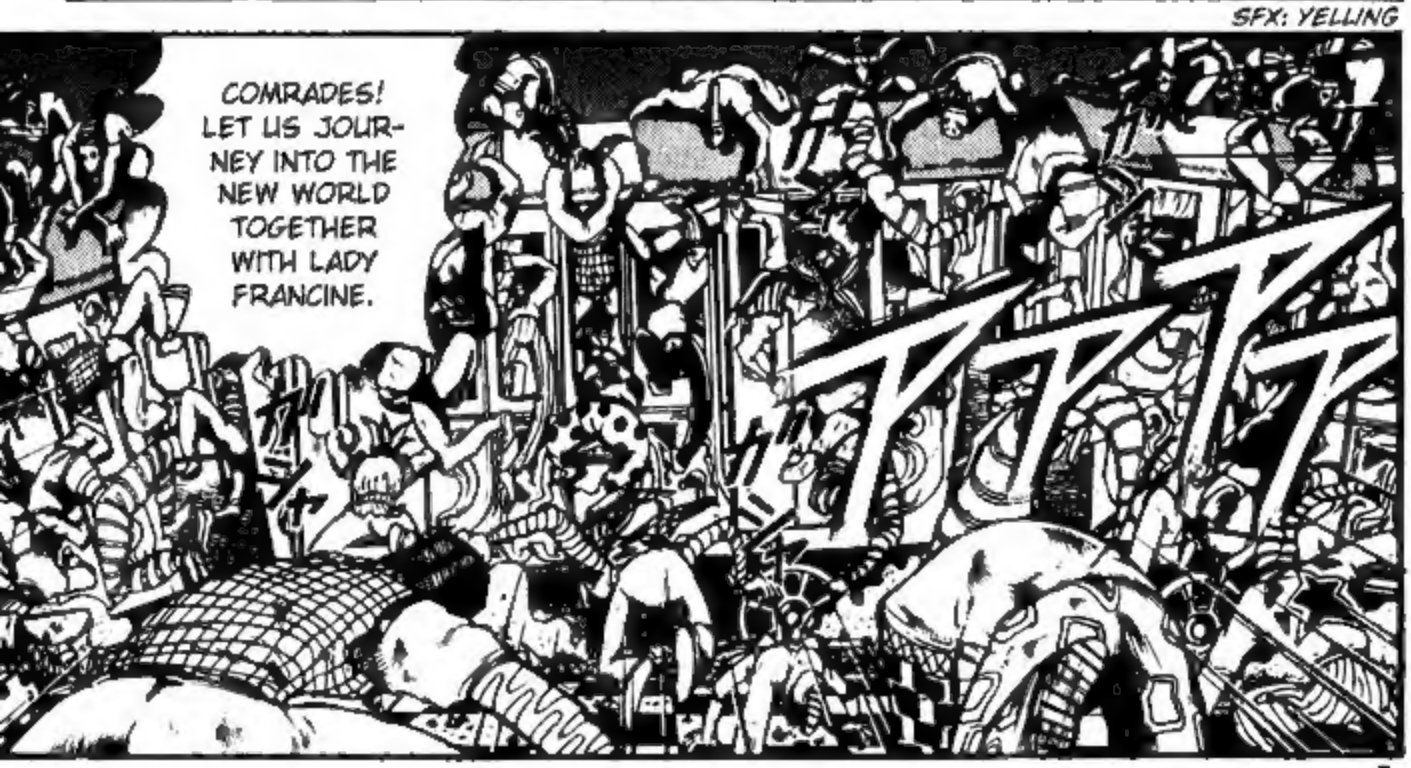
WE HAVE WON.
ALL WHO ARE NOW CAPABLE OF MOVEMENT, COME DOWN AND BOARD THE TRAIN.

SFX: ROARING

WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN OUR PLAN TO LURE THEM ALL TO A SINGLE LOCATION AND WIPE THEM OUT IN ONE BLOW!
THE SHIRO-GANE WERE SCATTERED ACROSS THE GLOBE, CONSTANTLY INFLICTING LOSSES UPON OUR FORCES.

UGH ...
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
LURED ... AND WIPED OUT ...

SFX: YELLING


COMRADES! LET US JOURNEY INTO THE NEW WORLD TOGETHER WITH LADY FRANCINE.

A WORLD WHERE THE HUMANS LACK ANY MEANS TO RESIST US!
A CORNUCOPIA OF THE HUMAN BLOOD THAT SERVES AS OUR FOOD!

THERE'S NOTHIN' WE CAN DO AT THIS POINT.... DON'T GET TOO WORKED UP OVER THERE.
DAMNED ALITOMATA ...

OUR NEXT STOP IS *PARADISE!* A HOLY LAND FREE FROM THE EVIL KNOWN AS SHIROGANE!

HEY! GEORGE!
I WON'T JUST LET YOU ESCAPE ...!
YOUR BODY ISN'T GIVING YOU TROUBLE, IS IT, PANTA-LONE?
NOW, LET US GATHER LADY FRANCINE.
HMPH. NOT TO THE DEGREE THAT COLUM-BINE'S DID, ARLEC-CHINO.
SO LONG AS WE POSSESS THE BASIC ABILITY TO MOVE, *THIS* IS ALL THE THREAT A SHIROGANE POSES.
I'D FINISH THIS ONE OFF IF WE DIDN'T HAVE MORE PRESSING BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.

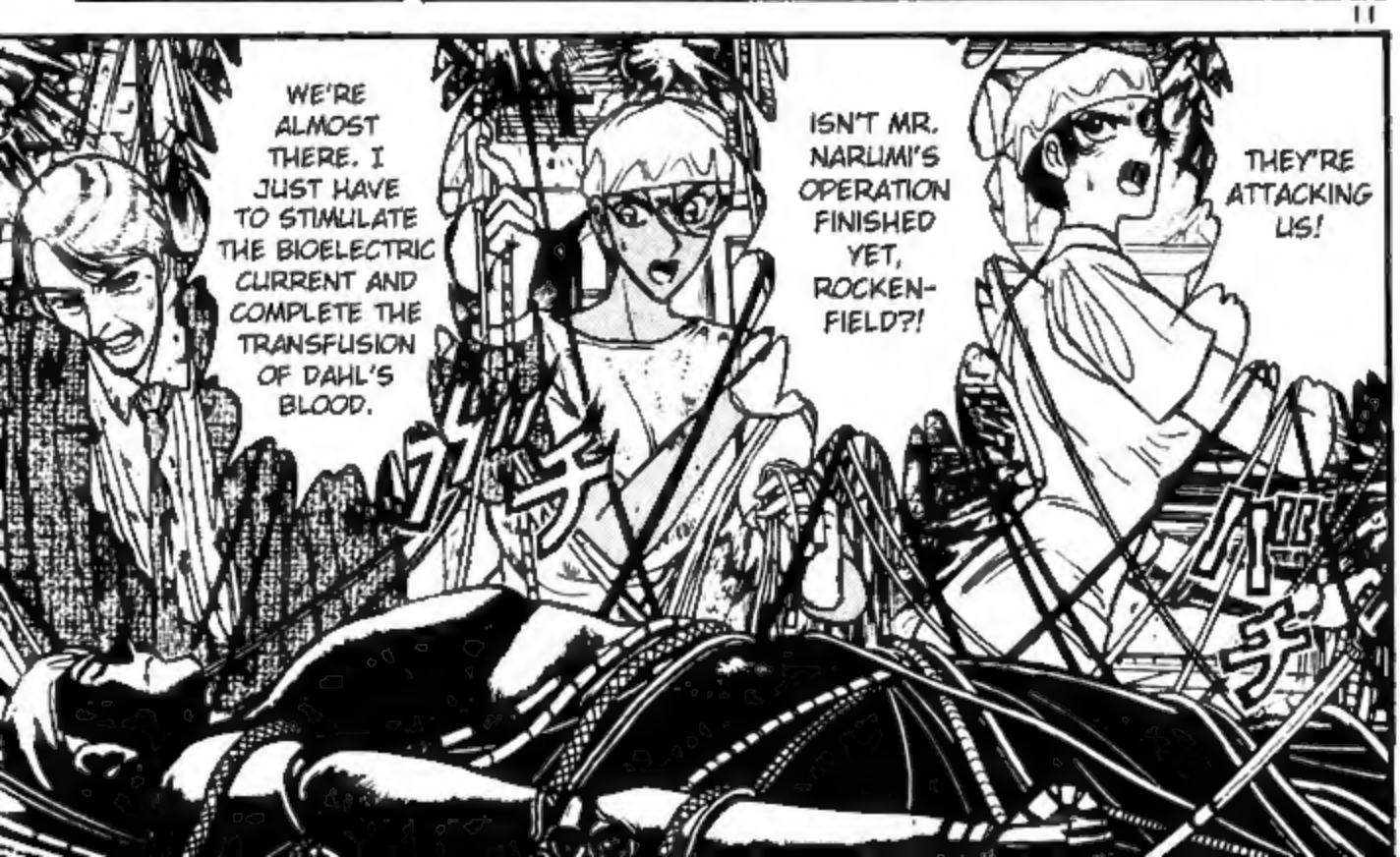
WE'RE GONNA BE DEAD SOON ANYWAY. I DON'T SEE MUCH POINT IN RACKIN' UP MORE HURT BEFORE YA GO.
OH, JEEZ.
D-DAMN IT...!

WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
ONE LAST WORTH-LESS LITTLE HUMAN?

MOVE.

"MOVE"
...

WE CAN'T JUST UP AND LEAVE WITHOUT RETURNING THE FA-VOR.
AHH, DAMMIT, THE SHIROGANE MADE FOOLS OF US!


WE'RE ALMOST THERE. I JUST HAVE TO STIMULATE THE BIOELECTRIC CURRENT AND COMPLETE THE TRANSFUSION OF DAHL'S BLOOD.
ISN'T MR. NARUMI'S OPERATION FINISHED YET, ROCKEN-FIELD?!
THEY'RE ATTACKING US!

ROCK-
EN-
FIELD!
!
BUT NARUMI MAY REGAIN CONSCIOUS-NESS ANY MOMENT NOW...

EEEYAAAH!
YES, THANK YOU.
ARE YOU OKAY?

THAT WAY THE ENEMIES ATTACKING US WILL BE FORCED TO TARGET YOU INSTEAD. YOU'RE PLANNING TO BE A DECOY.
WHAT ?!
YOU MEAN TO ATTACK THE DOLL FRANCINE, DON'T YOU, FATIMA?

IF THIS GOES ON, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SAVE MR. NARUMI.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MING-XIA.
NO! FATIMA, HOW CAN YOU EVEN...

I'M SORRY, MR. ROCKEN-FIELD.
MM ...
FATIMA...

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING, MING-XIA.
FATIMA, WAIT!

I AM NO LONGER A SHIROGANE.

THAT SHIROGANE'S PLANNING TO HEAD FOR LADY FRANCINE.
OH! LOOK AT THAT!
TELL MR. NARUMI ...
TO GET WELL SOON!
FLET

FATIMAAA!!
WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT!

NO! FATI-MAAA!

MING-HAI!

COME BACK AND SAY IT YOUR-SELF!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

IT'S UP TO YOU NOW. YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP!
NA-RUMI, THE OPERA-TION IS OVER!

WAKE UP, MING-HAI!

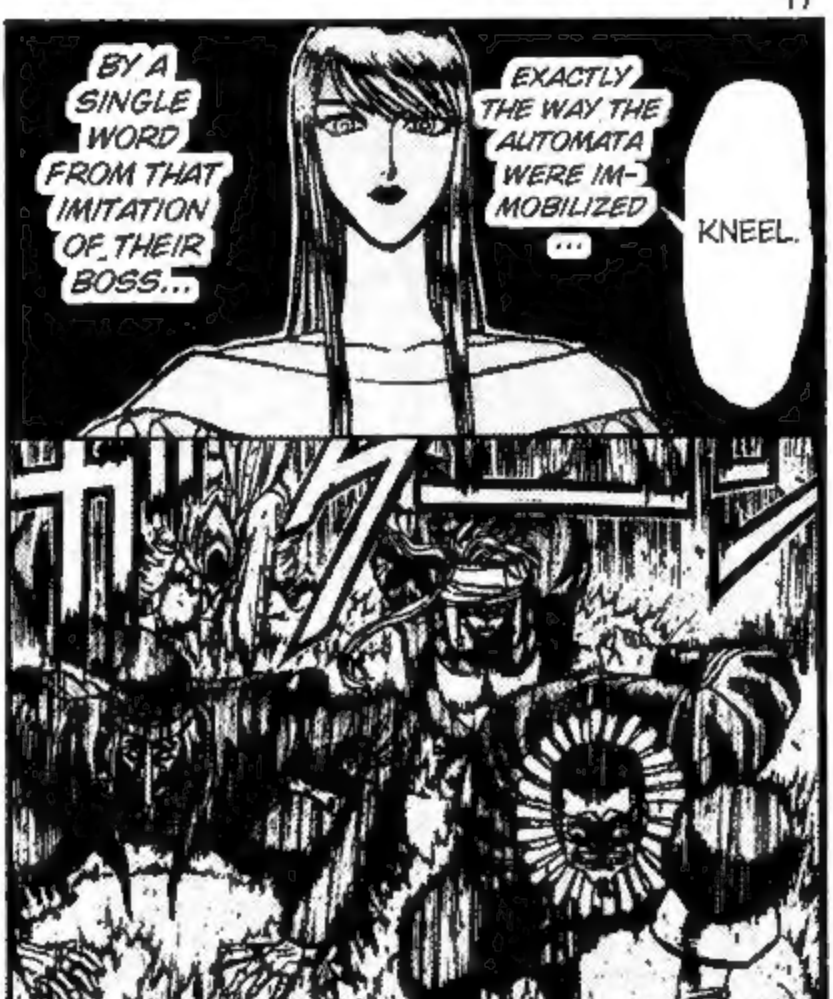
NA-RUMI !!

OVER-
COME BY
FEAR...
I JUST...
STEPPED
ASIDE...

JUST
NOW?
WHY
DID I
STEP
ASIDE
...

17

SO
I'M
JUST
LIKE
THEM,
AM I?
KEH.


BY A
SINGLE
WORD
FROM THAT
IMITATION
OF THEIR
BOSS...
EXACTLY
THE WAY THE
AUTOMATA
WERE IM-
MOBILIZED
...
KNEEL.

YA DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THEM!
WHAT THE HELL'RE YA DOIN', YA DAMN FOOL?!
WHA ...

GET READY TO DIE, FRANCINE!
STOOOOP ...!!

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

pg. 5: The Long-Legged Clown
(長足クラウン号, *Naga-ashi Clown-gou*)
is named for the long-legged clown,
a type of clown that works on stilts.
長足 is usually read *chousoku* (rapid progress),
but the characters literally just mean long + leg.

These scanlations have been uploaded *only*
to Batoto so that I can remove them if the
series is ever licensed. Please read them
there instead of on websites that rip them and
watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is
welcome to take over at any time or to redo
chapters I have already done if they are
below the quality that this series deserves.